



Appleby Archaeology



Spring 2004

Volume 7 Issue 1

Member's Evening 2004

Following the AGM in January two members presented talks to the group.

Phyllis Rouston, using slides, described the results of a survey at Crake Trees. The ruined house is a Grade 2 listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is located near Crosby Ravensworth facing north east overlooking the Lyvennet valley.

English Heritage surveyed the site three years ago to "assess the importance of the buildings and the hitherto unrecorded earthworks....". In March 2002 Appleby Archaeology were invited to join Crosby Ravensworth History Society in a guided walk of the site led by two members of the survey team. The documentary evidence and survey results have helped to build up a picture of the house and the use of the land over a period of seven hundred years.

The earliest remains, dating to the 14th century, are those of a medieval solar wing, (the part of the house where the family lived) with an attached chapel to the south. A ground floor timber hall and service block would have been joined to the north. A number of small enclosures and fields surrounded the house and nearby there was a fish pond with terraces to one end. The house was approached by track ways, still clearly visible, and visitors approaching along the main track, which descended the hillside, would have been impressed by the house and its setting.

In the late 16th century or early 17th century the house was largely rebuilt. The timber hall was replaced by a single storey stone hall and a new solar tower. The solar wing now became the service block. At this time the house was owned by the Lancaster family but in 1638 it passed, on marriage, to the Lowthers of Whitehaven and may then have been occupied by

tenants. Evidence suggests that farming became more important and cultivation of the surrounding areas was brought closer to the house.

In the late 17th century a second storey was added to the hall. This can be seen in drawings of the 1860s and photographs taken in 1936. By the early 19th century the conversion of Crake Trees to a farmhouse was complete with the addition of a barn, changes to the fields and a move from arable to pastoral farming. The 1851 census records the last farmer to live at Crake Trees. In 1871 the house was occupied by two families and it was abandoned by 1881. At the time of the guided walk the 18th century barn was being converted to a 21st century home so once again a family is living on the site of Crake Trees.

Martin Railton then spoke about a survey he had undertaken at Hartsop Hall lead mine, 1.5km south west of Hartsop in the Ullswater valley, where the mineral vein runs along an east facing slope. He began by reviewing the documentary evidence and then, using slides, described the findings of a survey he did in spring 2003.

The earliest recorded dates for lead mining at the Hall are from the late 17th century when the mine was owned by Sir John Lowther. At this time the miners would have worked at the surface, where the lead was visible, or dug shallow shafts. It is unclear how much mining activity there was in the 18th century. A survey of the Manor of Hartsop in 1764 records the location of the lead vein and one level. A nearby lead smelter is marked as the "Old Smelt Mill" suggesting it had gone out of use and an audit of tools and equipment, also dated 1764, indicates that mining was going on but on a small scale.

In 1830 the mine was reopened by two miners from Alston. Two levels were opened to access the lead vein but re-

turns must have been poor as the mine closed after two years. Thirty years later a consortium of local miners took up a thirty year lease. They drove in new levels, built a mill and introduced water power to drive a wheel to power the crushing machinery. In 1868 nine miners were working at the mine but due to financial difficulties the mine was closed in 1871 and the buildings pulled down. Some of the stone and slate was reused to build a barn at the Hartsop Hall Farm and to extend Brothers Water Hotel.

The mine was again reopened in 1931 and a new mill was erected on the old site. Oil driven engines powered the rollers and crushers, and facilitated an increase in drilling power. It closed finally in 1942 due to wartime difficulties and when Lord Lonsdale died the land was donated to the National Trust.

The survey was restricted to surface remains associated with the mine and was done to help "inform the conservation of the mine and as an aid to its interpretation". Features of each period of mining were located over the 500m of the hillside surveyed. The earliest evidence was of surface working directly over the lead vein including five possible shafts, one of which was later extended underground. Adit entrances, spoil heaps, remains of buildings, leats and tracks were all identified and could be linked to the documentary findings.

Mining at Hartsop hall was never a large scale operation but it appears to have provided a living for local families over four centuries. Erosion is now a serious threat to the mine remains and work to consolidate the mine has been recommended to the National Trust.

Both speakers took questions from the floor and were thanked for their contribution to the evening.

Phyllis Rouston

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Historic Landscape Survey at Hartsop, Ullswater with Jamie Lund of the National Trust

Jamie began by outlining his work with the "Trust" explaining that the surveys help us to understand how land was used in the past and contribute to helping in planning the future management of land and buildings. The methodology involves walking over an area and recording anything significant, such as monuments, buildings and particularly boundary walls; a documentary search is undertaken and local people are interviewed to build as full a picture of the land use as possible. A number of areas have been surveyed including Great Langdale and Wasdale Head.

He described, in detail, the findings from the historic landscape survey at Hartsop. The area surveyed was 3640 acres with Brothers Water at the centre and the of summit Kirkstone Pass and Beckstones Farm marking the southern and northern limits.

The earliest monuments found were examples of Neolithic rock art. These were found beside a bridleway which runs in a north to south direction. Could this have been an ancient route from the monuments near Penrith to the axe factory at Great Langdale? A Bronze age mound, which has been explored at some time in the past, can be seen near Hartsop Hall Farm. The only traces of the Romans are two roads, High Street, and one through the Kirkstone Pass which was used until the present road was built in the 18th century and was excavated in 1980. A Romano British enclosure with large stones, known locally as Druid Stones can be seen below High Hartsop Dod.

There is little evidence in the landscape of the centuries preceding

the Norman invasion but place names in the Lake District indicate the presence of Norsemen. Place names ending with "thwaite" meaning a clearing suggest that the Norsemen may have cleared the woodland for agriculture.

The 11th-13th century was a time of social change with a rising population. Large areas of land were given to the Norman nobility but alas the name of the first Lord of the Manor of Hartsop is unknown. The first documentary evidence relating to the Manor is early 13th century and records a marriage. The Manor was divided along the line of Kirkstone Beck. On the west was the demesne land (retained by the owner) with large fields and woodland and on the east the tenants had their tiny fields. The valley bottom of meadow and arable land was probably enclosed in the early 1200s with the stock grazing on the higher ground and brought down for winter. The division of the land by Brothers Water may have led to two hamlets High and Low Hartsop. Documents record that the demesne land became a vacarry (cattle ranch) and mention the presence of an early Hall.

The expansion halted in the 14th century due to a deteriorating climate, the Scots and the Black Death. The population did not recover until the 15-16th centuries when records tell us a new hall was built and of a marriage link to the Lowthers. The demesne land was now given over to agricultural use and put in the hands of tenants. As the population rose more land was taken in from the fells where there is evidence of stone clearing. The south facing land was cleared first. After 1660 sheep predominated

and there are records of pinfolds and stints as well as the physical remains of a number of hog houses. Some farms expanded and this period saw the first buildings in the style we now consider typical of the Lake District.

From the 17th century the land was exploited by industry. In 1697 a licence was granted to mine the lead bearing rock above Hartsop Hall and mining continued there until 1947, leaving evidence of buildings such as the smelt mill, the mining levels and of the diversion of water to provide power. Sled gates, where the men transported slate down hill on trolleys, are clearly seen to the east of Kirkstone Pass and are evidence of slate quarrying on Caudate Moor, which continued until the 1930s. In the early 19th century charcoal was produced from the woods on the demesne land and over 40 production sites were found within the survey area.

The rectangular fields and straight walls of today's landscape are the result of enclosure awards made in the latter part of the 19th century and are perhaps the most apparent indications of land use today.

Jamie convinced the group of the value of historic landscape surveys. The one conducted at Hartsop has given us a picture of how the land has been used for 4000 years. He concluded by telling us that Hartsop Hall Farm, sold in 1947, was the first farm to be sold to pay death duties and was known as Dalton Farm after the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the time.

Phyllis Rouston

Roman Domestic Life on the Frontier

With Georgina Plowright

Georgina Plowright, a founder member of the Appleby Archaeology group, was given a warm welcome when she returned to speak at the December meeting. Roman Domestic Life on the Frontier was the subject of her talk and she explained that much of the evidence she had come from Houseteads, Chesters and Corbridge, where she is curator for English Heritage.

She began by outlining the types of households that provided the back drop to domestic life at the time. The upland native farms such as Ewe Close, steeped in the traditions of the ancestors were contrasted with the Mediterranean style building of the commanding officer's house at Houseteads. Grand civilian houses or villas, are not found in the vicinity of Hadrian's wall. The most northerly is at Piercebridge in Durham. Far more common are strip houses found in the civilian settlements around the forts. At Corbridge, several of these houses jostle to take advantage of a frontage on Stanegate. Some are open fronted which suggests that they may have been business premises such as cart repair shops, food retailers and taverns. There was a mingling of cultures as the native Britons became involved in providing services to the Roman army and this would have increased, in time, as intermarriage with the civilian population took place.

Evidence of domestic life comes from several sources but it was emphasised that most informed us about the upper levels of society. Coins, sculptures and carvings on tombstones can show the

hairstyles, fashions and furniture in use at the time. Artefacts including pottery, items of jewellery, pieces of plaster, tiles and textiles, all help to build up a picture of civilian life. The Vindolanda tablets give us an insight into family life. One records an invitation to a birthday party and another includes a passage from Virgil apparently written as part of a lesson with the comment "sloppy" added by the tutor!

Georgina then spoke about life inside the home. The houses were probably quite dark and a number of lighting methods were used. These included oil lamps, which used olive oil or animal fats, candles, some of which could be stuck into the wall and light from the hearth or brazier. Keeping warm may have difficult and not surprisingly there is evidence of insulation using moss and fungi and at Vindolanda puffeduffs may have been used. Tombstones depict bedclothes of various patterns and textures and analysis of dyes from Vindolanda suggests that textiles came in a range of colours.

We heard about the clothes worn, or the lack of them as it appears that underwear was not part of Roman dress. The tunic was the basic garment for both sexes and more than one tunic may have been worn with a cloak or mantle. Heavy working materials may have been worn on the frontier,

If there is one area where nothing has changed, it is a woman's need for cosmetics. Evidence of foundation, face powder, rouge, and eye makeup were referred to as was the use of depilatory pastes. In Corbridge a number of flasks were found and it is thought that these would have contained aromatic oils used on visits to the baths. A number of mirrors and hairpins have been

found as have other toilet items such as tweezers, nail cleaners and ear picks.

Pets seem to have been part of the family. One tombstone depicts a lady nursing a bird and there are several sculptures of dogs and one of a little Scottie dog: can be seen in the Chesters collection. The Vindolanda tablets mention two types of hunting dog segosi and vertraga. The latter was highly praised by its owner Arrian, who commented that the dogs were at their best "when they sleep with a man". A sentiment no doubt echoed by many today.

A varied diet was enjoyed. Meats, cereals, game and fish were all eaten and washed down with wine and Celtic beer. Some dining was done reclining on couches using three legged tables but a relief shows people sitting on chairs. Knives and spoons were used but not forks. Pewter and pottery dishes have been found and it is likely that poorer households would have used wooden plates which have not survived.

A number of other aspects of domestic life were mentioned to give a real insight into the daily lives of those living on the frontier during the Roman occupation.

Phyllis Rouston



SPRING PROGRAMME

FIELDWORK DAY at Kirkland

10.30am Sat 3rd April
meet at Kirkland Hall
NY65103260

A day of fieldwork to survey and record features near Kirkland is open to all members of the group. No previous experience is required. Bring waterproofs, sensible footwear, a packed lunch and a drink.

This introductory day will be followed by further activities on the first Saturday each month. For further details contact Martin Railton on 01768 88318 or email: martin@fellside-eden.freemove.co.uk.

SEE ENCLOSED REPORT

VISIT: The Crow- dunle Bloomery Site

7.30pm Tue 11th May
meet top of Milburn green
NY65652940

A visit to the newly discovered bloomery/smelter site to investigate the remains. Contact Harry Hawkins on 01768 864340 for details.

VISIT: CRAGSIDE

Victorian Country House
Rothbury, Northumberland
Saturday 12th June

Built by engineering genius Lord William Armstrong, who specialised in hydraulic and electrical engineering. Cragside was his engineering playground. In the 1880s the house had hot

and cold running water, central heating, fire alarms and telephones, and was the first house in the world to be lit by electricity. There is a service lift from the kitchen and a rotating spit over the fire both powered by hydroelectricity generated on the estate. The location is dramatic and the gardens are also said to be terrific.

Entrance fee £8.00. Travel will be by car share. For further details ring Martin Joyce on 017683 61131



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Appleby Archaeology Time Tours

What's a **Time Tour**? Well, just imagine you were entertaining friends who show some interest in archaeology and history. "How about a day out and about in the Eden Valley", you might say. "Could I show you a few Cumbrian Castles perhaps?"

Doubt and uncertainty suddenly seize the mind. What's the best route to take? How do we maximize castles to the mile, as it were? Just remind me, which was the one Richard the Third lived in? Is Appleby Castle still open to the public? Where can we stop for a cup of tea?

The answer to all these questions, and more, might well be found by looking at the **Time Tours** listed on the Appleby Archaeology Group web site.

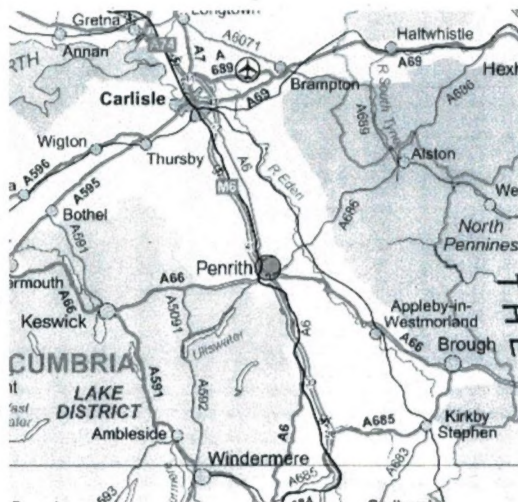
"Ah yes, here we are, a neat, circular route linking the finest military defensive sites in the area. We can easily do it in a day. And yes, "Dick the Bad" lived at Penrith - knew it all the time of course. Oh and look, there's a prehistory tour, as well, and a monastic one...."

So there you have it. A **Time Tour** is a selection of "waypoints" illustrating a particular theme or topic and chosen so as to be visited easily in a single day. It is mounted on an Internet Web site so that it can be accessed by anybody with a computer and a telephone, and so that it can also be created and maintained by ourselves at minimal cost. It carries pictures to provide a flavour of each waypoint together with plans and commentary to interpret the site. I suppose, being Appleby Archaeology we should aim to start and finish each tour at Appleby but we need not follow this rule slavishly. And we needn't stick to the car either - use of boots would be positively encouraged. The aim would simply be to suggest an enjoyable and informative day out, thereby assisting the public, giving ourselves some enjoyment and providing the group as a whole with some publicity.

The tours would not be a simple catalogue of sites since each tour would be looking at its theme subject as a whole and would aim to put the topic into some sort of historical context. Waypoints would be presented in relation to each other as well as described individually. Each Tour would thus aspire to be a journey through time as well as space.

"All that remains" in the first instance is to select the themes/topics, choose the waypoints and decide the order in which they should be visited. Why not give it a go using the form and map below?

Proposed Theme :



Proposed Waypoints:

Please return to :

Martin Joyce : North Gate,
Milburn, CA101TN
Tel 017683 61131

If you would be prepared to **assist** further with the development of the web-site by taking photographs and writing text etc - or in **joining** the **editorial team** designing the layout of the site, obtaining copyright permission, building web-pages etc, etc please **telephone** me!



FIELD SURVEY AT KIRKLAND

Last year members of Appleby Archaeology Group spent several enjoyable afternoons exploring fields at the bottom of the fell east of Kirkland (NY657333). Field survey was undertaken by walking systematically across the land and noting features encountered. Forms were used to record the location and dimensions of these which were then plotted out to produce an outline plan.

Initial visits indicated the presence of an extensive area of archaeological remains comprising low stone banks, platforms and stone cairns both east and west of the fell track (shown opposite). Also identified were a rectangular feature and two circular pits which were located close to Kirkland Beck. These have since been identified as potash pits, used to burn bracken for the production of potassium carbonate (used in the manufacture of soap).

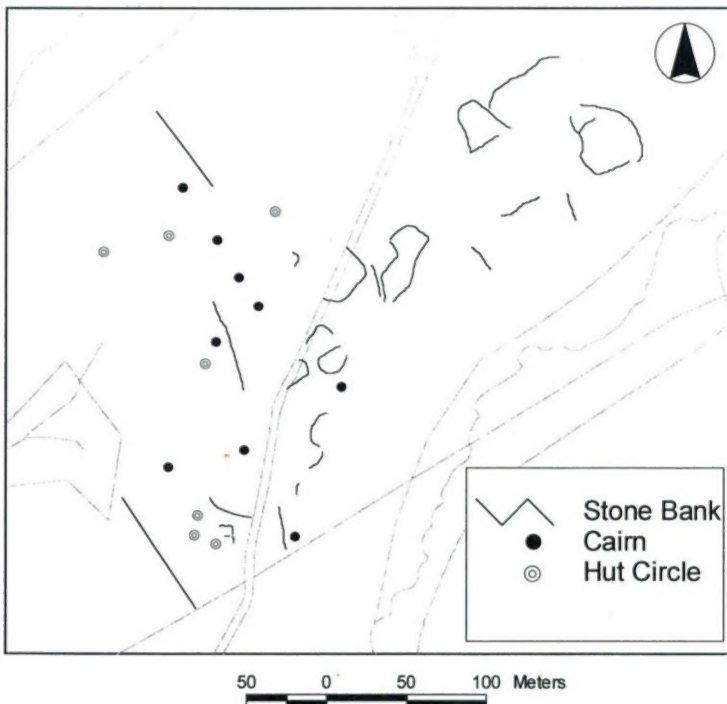
Some of the banks survive as short lengths while others form small enclosures or define level platforms. The banks are associated with areas which are relatively clear of stone compared to the surrounding land which is boulder-strewn. The cairns may also be the result of field clearance but could equally be burial cairns. In addition a number of

circular and sub-rectangular features were recorded, including several possible hut circles. One or two enclosures also appeared to have internal features which have not yet been recorded.

Due to the complexity of the site further detailed survey and recording is planned to determine the nature of the archaeological remains. It has the appearance of a settlement. If so is it prehistoric? Do all the features belong to one phase? Does it extend beyond the area surveyed?

In order to answer these questions we need your help. The next step is to record the features we have identified in sufficient detail so as to make an interpretation of the site possible. It is not entered in the Cumbrian Sites and Monuments record and to do so we need a better understanding of what we have found.

If you would like to join in please get in touch or come along on the 3rd April for our introductory day (see Events).



Contact Details

If you would like to take part please send your details to:
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